

**SERC MEETING**  
**Nebraska Emergency Management Agency**  
**2433 NW 24 St**  
**Lincoln, Nebraska**  
**October 1, 2013; 1300 CDT**

**I. Call to Order**, Introduction of Members

An Open Meeting Statute, available for review, was available on the registration table.  
Tim Hofbauer, vice chair, called the meeting to order at 1:06 PM.

Member		Affiliation	Present
Sheri	Blaha	County Elected Official	X
Al	Berndt	NE Emergency Management	X
Steven	Danon	Small Business	X
Keith	Deiml	Education	
Don	Eisenhauer	Agribusiness	
Jim	Heine	State Fire Marshal	X
Joe	Francis	Department of Environmental Quality	X
Gary	Gandara	Labor	
John	Grimes	Industry	
Keith	Hansen	Chair, Community Health	
Tim	Hofbauer	Vice Chair, Local Emergency Management	X
Larry	Johnson	Trucking Association	
Judd	Lyons	ARNG	X
Mark	Lohnes	NDEQ SARA Title III	X
(empty)		City Government	
Mark	Maday	Transportation	
Dana	Miller	Fire	X
Tonya	Ngotel	SERC Coordinator	X
Kimberly	Plouzek	Environmental Protection	X
Tom	Sands	Department of Roads	X
Tom	Schwarten	State Patrol	X
Sue	Semerena	Health and Human Services	
Jessica	Sherwood	NDOR Alt	X

Others Present: Earl Blasdel, TSA Federal Air Marshal Service

**II. Approval of the Agenda** for October 1, 2013

Tom Schwarten made a motion to approve the agenda. Tom Sands seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

**III. Approval of the Minutes** from July 2, 2013 meeting.

Jim Heine made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from July 2, 2013. Dana Miller seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

#### **IV. New Business**

##### **a. SERC Strategic Plan Review and Update**

A two page document was developed during the Spring Retreat in July outlining the two main goals for SERC in the coming year. A tool for goal one – research best practice and guidelines for SERC and LEPCs – is in the process of being developed. A draft of this tool should be released soon. A meeting notice to discuss the tool has been sent those involved in its development. Under goal two – help LEPCs with marketing solutions – Tonya has continually provided information to the LEPCs through Facebook, the public information officer at NEMA, the LEPC website, and email. A few additional counties have re-established active LEPCs; however, the LEPC activity map is generally the same as it was previously. These goals will be readdressed at the next spring retreat.

##### **b. Hazmat Challenge Update**

The Hazmat Challenge was held on September 19-20 in Omaha, Nebraska at the Omaha Public Safety Training Center and was a joint endeavor with the Omaha Police Department and Omaha Fire Department. Five local fire departments – North Platte, Hastings, Red Willow/McCook, Scottsbluff and Omaha – participated in the Hazmat Challenge along with members from the Nebraska State Patrol and the State Fire Marshal. Six different sessions were held over the two days; these events included: chemical detection, damming and diking, radiation training and detection, hazmat ID, and plumbing and muddling. A Nebraska Resource Allocation Team (NRAT) has been developed and was utilized to track participants at the challenge using a ID embedded with a scanning tool.

The ultimate goal of the Hazmat Challenge was to find a team to send to the National Hazmat Challenge in Texas. Determination for the team had yet to be made and will be announced at the Jan 2014 SERC meeting.

##### **c. Executive Order Improving Chemical Safety**

An Executive Order on Improving Chemical Facilities Safety and Security was signed by President Obama on August 1, 2013; this Executive Order seeks to improve the safety and security of chemical facilities and reduce the risks of hazardous chemicals to workers and communities. A copy of the Order was passed to all members. NDEQ sponsored a State/Federal working group where multiple issues were identified and discussed pertaining to the executive order, including the dissemination of information to first responders, joint inspections, cross training of inspectors, communication between different federal agencies. Members included; NDEQ, NEMA, OSHA, EPA, and DHS.

#### **V. Old Business**

##### **a. LEPC Membership Approval (Vote)**

A number of LEPC membership applications have been received; most of the applications are for LEPC renewal with only a few new applicants. Joe Francis made a motion to approve the application for membership. Tom Schwarten seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

##### **b. SERC Membership Committee**

###### **i. Status Report**

The City Elected Official position is currently open; a representative from the Western portion of the state is preferred. Inquiries should be sent to Tonya Ngotel.

**c. 2013 Regional LEPC Conference Review**

The Regional LEPC Conference was held on July 25-27 in Overland Park, Kansas City. Approximately 30-33 Nebraska representatives were in attendance. Award winners from the LEPC Conference included: Hamilton County (Small LEPC), Elkhorn Valley LEPC (Mid-Sized LEPC), Douglas County LEPC (Large LEPC), and Region 5/6 LEPC and Emergency Management (Website). The next regional conference will be in 2015; the 2015 conference may be held in either Nebraska or Iowa.

**d. 2014 State LEPC Conference**

The 2014 State LEPC Conference will be held in conjunction with the Hazmat Symposium on April 5-6, 2014 in Kearney, Nebraska. The LEPC Conference and Hazmat Symposium will hold separate trainings and presentations during the day; however, a joint program will be held during the night.

**e. Other**

No report.

**VI. Report from NEMA**

The 2013 Homeland Security Grant is being developed; the Investment Justification process has been completed and is based off the 2012 THIRA (Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment). The 2014 THIRA will be completed soon; this will ultimately become the basis for target capabilities for the 2014 Homeland Security Grant. As the Homeland Security program continues, it will become more driven by information included in the THIRA and the identified shortfalls in capabilities; these capabilities will need to be identified in other federal grant programs and state funds that have a role in supporting the State Homeland Security Program.

A senior advisory committee will be formed in the next six months; this committee will be representative of the entire state and will include a cross-sectional representation of the whole community, including, but not limited to, fire, public works, tribal, law enforcement, environmental health, public health, and schools. This will be a program of maturation. The Senior Advisory Committee will advise the State Homeland Security Director. By statute, the Lt. Governor is the State Homeland Security Director; in accordance, it will be his responsibility to form Senior Advisory Committee.

The PHMSA-DOT Grant award notification was received in mid-September; it was cut by ten percent (approximately \$30,000) due to sequestration. The Commodity Flow Study ended on October 1; the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center will be submitting a report on the project to Tonya.

**VII. Report from NDEQ/EPA**

Representatives from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) toured the flood damage and were impressed with the actions on the local level. Using Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations (CAMEO), NDEQ was able to identify facilities storing Tier II chemicals within a quarter-mile of the flood zone. Scott Macintyre and Mark Lohnes attended the State Hazmat Challenge and would like to be active next year.

**VIII. Public Forum/Presentation**

Following the South Platte floods, CAMEO was used to determine water level data; this data was complimented with data gathered by the Department of Natural Resources' river gauge data and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Hazus data. Collaboration between state and federal agencies allowed for officials across the state to accurately analyze and comprehend the flooding in Ogallala and other affected areas.

**IX. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on January 1, 2014 at 1:00 PM in Lincoln, Nebraska at the Nebraska Educational Television building.

**Adjournment**

Al Berndt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Joe Francis seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus. The meeting was adjourned at 1:56 PM.

DRAFT